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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following:

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the outer periphery end comes in contact with the bend portion at the caulked portion, causing the cap and the filter to be electrically connected to each other.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5 with the following:

A₃

the outer periphery end comes in contact with the bend portion at the caulked portion, then the cap and the filter are electrically connected to each other.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22 with the following:

A₄

the step of forming the caulked portion comprises a step of electrically connecting the cap and the filter to each other by contacting the outer periphery end at the caulked portion with the bend portion so that the caulked portion includes both states of contact, that is, (i) a strong contact portion and (ii) a weak contact portion, between the surface of the outer periphery end of the flange and the bend portion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 10 with the following:

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Fig. 1 (a) shows a sectional view of a top sealing plate for battery in one embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 1 (b) is a partly enlarged view of same. Fig. 2 (a) shows a sectional view of a battery using the top sealing plate. Fig. 2 (b) is a partly enlarged view of same. The top sealing plate 22 includes a cap 11, filter 3, and rubber valve body 12. The filter 3 has an upper opening formed in the top surface thereof and a valve hole 9 formed

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A₅- in the bottom surface thereof. The rubber valve body 12 is used as an example of the valve body. The valve body 12 is disposed in the top sealing plate 22 so as to close the valve hole 9. The cap 11 is disposed so as to close the upper opening of the filter 3. The cap 11 includes a convex portion 6 formed at the center thereof and a filter 14 disposed around the convex portion 6. A gas vent hole 10 is formed in the filter 14. The filter 3 has a dish-shape, and in the center of the filter 3 is formed the valve hole 9. When gas is generated in the battery, the gas is discharged out of the battery through the valve hole 9 and gas vent hole 10. The cap 11 and filter 3 are made of electrically conductive material such as metals. Projection 31 is formed on the surface or back of the outer periphery end of the flange 14 of the cap 11. The projection 31 includes at least one out of a plurality of small projections 16, a plurality of bulges 15, and peripheral edge 17 extending from the outer periphery end which are described later.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 21 with the following:

A₆ Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing the method of processing top sealing plate 22 shown in Fig. 4. In Fig. 5, the top sealing plate 22 once caulked and set up is supported by the lower die 18 of the press. Wedge-like portion 21 where the tip of the upper die 20 of the press has wedge-like sharpness at several portions is pressed against the caulked portion 13 at the outer periphery of the top sealing plate 22, thereby locally applying pressures thereto. The wedge-like portion 21 of the upper die is used as an example of a protuberant tool. In this way, the wedge-like tip portion 21 bites into the top sealing plate 22, and thereby, the top sealing plate 22 is deformed. Thus, generation of loosening due to springback of the caulked portion can be prevented. Further, it is possible to make perfect the state of contact between the cap 11 and the filter 3.

IN THE DRAWINGS: